

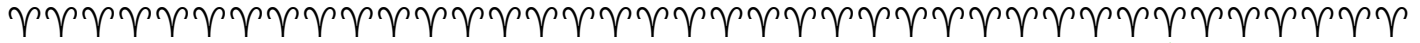
# 15-B INSIDER

<http://www.mea15b.org>

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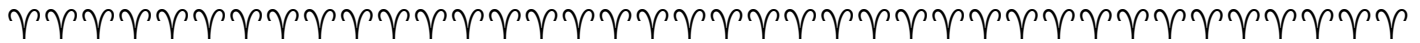
December



**MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**



2005



## **BARGAINING PA/PR CONFERENCE**

This year's slogan is "MEA: Impacting the Future," and that's exactly what the 2006 Bargaining/Political Action/Public Relations Conference is all about. It is designed to give you the tools and knowledge to impact your local's future.

The bargaining conference is an opportunity to gain new skills, sharpen old ones, and extend your personal and professional network. Through the valuable training that will be offered, you will be able to gain insights and learn techniques that will make you an even stronger and more effective advocate for members - at the bargaining table, in the classroom, in the community and in the Legislature. These training sessions, along with our keynote speaker, Paul Loeb,

are designed to continue to highlight our commitment to "Building Full Capacity Locals". Strong, vibrant locals with well-trained leaders dedicated to member service are the key to a strong MEA!

Many of the sessions being offered at the conference qualify for SBCEU credits or Michigan ESP Center for Professional Learning (MECPL) credits. All support the Building Full Capacity Locals (BFCL) initiative. Sessions will fill up VERY quickly.

The Conference is scheduled for February 9-11, 2006 at Hyatt Regency, Dearborn. Please contact the Cadillac MEA office for funding and registration procedures.

## **CRIMINAL RECORDS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Any member of the public can do a criminal records check through the Michigan State Police for a \$10 credit card charge. The member or Uniserv Director can check these records by going to the following web site:

<http://mi-mall.michigan.gov/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/StoreCatalogDisplay?langId=-1&catalogId=10201&storeId=10201>

This should be the first step for a member that thinks there may be an inaccurate record, or to see if a previously expunged conviction has been erased.

## **BARGAINING UPDATE**

Bargaining 05/06:

Evert EA & Evert Transportation



## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**



Dec. 22 – Jan. 2  
Jan. 17 – 20  
Jan. 16  
Jan. 17  
Feb. 9-11  
Feb. 21  
Feb. 22

Office closed - Christmas Holidays!  
Cyndi out of the office – Arbitration Training  
Office closed – Martin Luther King Day  
Coordinating Council – OPIE packets handed out!  
Bargaining/Political Action/PR Conference - Dearborn  
OPIE nominations due!  
Retirement Workshop - RSVP

***POLITICS***, n: *strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles.* Ambrose Bierce, U.S. author & satirist.

## **PETITION DRIVE CLEARS 200,000 SIGNATURE MARK**

The "Give Me 5" petition drive has cleared the 200,000 signature mark and continues to climb towards our goal of 300,000. We're in the homestretch! Keep up the great efforts, and we'll be at 300,000 before you know it! If you have any petitions (even if they are not full sheets), please turn them in to your MEA office right away. If you need more petitions, call the MEA office.

**Need help finding more signatures?** The best places to circulate petitions are places where lots of people congregate. Thus, most school activities are good places to get signatures of parents and friends of students who attend your schools. Some school districts have a policy of not allowing such activities because if the district allows one group to circulate petitions, it must allow all groups to circulate petitions; so ask first!

As we strive to gather the remaining signatures to reach our goal, finding people who haven't signed a petition may become tougher.

You've probably already asked your family, friends and neighbors. Instead of going out and asking strangers by yourself, consider gathering signatures as a group. Here are some suggestions:

- Gather signatures outside sporting events at your local high schools and colleges.
- Take advantage of the holiday shopping rush and collect signatures at local malls.
- Holiday parades, pageants and other public celebrations are great places to get signatures.
- Walk your neighborhoods and knock on doors. You can even make it a fun holiday activity by singing carols along the way!
- And, of course, holiday gatherings with your family and friends offer a great chance to get those last few stragglers who haven't signed your petition yet.

Any way you look at it, there are signatures left to gather. Go out and get them! Just don't forget to get permission before doing any signature gathering on school or private grounds.

## **THIS ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL FUNDING SCHEME WOULD LIMIT LOCAL CONTROL**

Beware of another "one-size-fits-all" plan that is sure to grab headlines in Michigan and across the nation in the coming year. Every school in the country would be required to spend at least 65% of their operational budgets "in the classroom," according to a plan by First Class Education, a conservative group led by Overstock.com CEO Patrick Byrne. The group aims to pass laws in all 50 states and the District of Columbia by 2008. Legislation has been introduced in Michigan.

The term "in the classroom" is defined by the National Center for Education Statistics and includes teachers, general instruction supplies, instructional aides, and activities such as field trips and athletics. The definition does not include other school-related instructional expenses such as librarians, libraries, transportation, teacher training, school nurses and school counselors. The so-called *65 percent plan* fails to account for local district needs and would limit funding for important programs. With more than 550 school districts in Michigan, this scheme assumes that each one has the same needs. For example, rural areas where students travel from greater distances may need to spend more on transportation, and this plan would limit a local district's ability to fund its unique needs. "We do not support a one-size-fits-all approach, and we have always maintained that school funding should be a local decision made by local residents and their elected representatives," says MEA President Lu Battaglieri. Legislative or ballot initiatives are underway in several states already. The proposal is expected to be raised in the 2006 general election in many states.

*Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of men, but from doing something for someone else.  
Be a gracious receiver as well and do not deprive someone else of that real joy!*



*Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays*

